

PREACHER ACCUSED

OF BIGAMY TWICE.

Counter-Charges of Avner and Fals Against Aris Lichtenstein.

Strange Disclosures at the Hearing of Two Men Arrested as Blackmailers.

Gittel, Who Avers That She Is One of Three Former Wives, Two Living, Claims Him.

TESTIMONY OF TWELVE WITNESSES.

Rev. Aris Lichtenstein, a Converted Hebrew and Chief of Baptist Missions in This City, Denies All the Charges.

Unless twelve witnesses performed themselves yesterday, the Rev. Aris Lichtenstein, Baptist missionary among the Jews of this city, is not only living under a false name, but has three wives, from none of whom a divorce was ever secured. These statements were repeatedly sworn

to in the trial of Wolf Avner and Isaac Fals, who were arrested charged with blackmailing the Rev. Mr. Lichtenstein.

In the criminal complaint the Rev. Mr. Lichtenstein said that the men—none of whom lives in Philadelphia—had conspired to extort money from him, threatening that if he did not pay them they would have his life. On the advice of Acting Captain Thompson, of the Oak Street Station, Mr. Lichtenstein gave them \$20 in marked money. They were at once arrested.

The story told by the men in their defence is that Lichtenstein's real name is Seide Hirschman, and that he was born in Kopyzenko, Russia, where his father is still living, and where his mother died less than five years ago. When a young man they say Hirschman became converted to the Christian faith and married a Christian girl. By her he had a son, who is now about twenty years old and is working as a street paver in Kammarsburg, Poland.

After a short time Hirschman returned to Russia and was married to Gittel Horowitz. By her he had a daughter, who died when three years old. After living with his wife a little more than a year Hirschman is said to have deserted her, taking with him \$1,000 in cash and a small property.

Hirschman, eventually went into the dry goods business in Marion, Ia., where he again married. Lichtenstein admits the last marriage, and says the woman is dead. Shortly after this the defence claims that he again embraced the Christian religion and changed his name. Four or five years he came to New York, where he was soon after employed by the New York Baptist Missionary Society to work for the conversion of the Jews. With this object in view he was given charge of their missions, the chief of which is at Henry and Oliver streets. Last May Lichtenstein again married. This time his wife was a converted Jewess. He is now living with her at No. 1245 Myrtle avenue, Brooklyn.

The defendants allege that their effort to secure money from Lichtenstein was for the benefit of Gittel Horowitz, the wife he deserted in Russia. For the last six years she has been in the country searching for him and her testimony was among the most important given yesterday.

DENIALS OF LICHTENSTEIN.

Lichtenstein denies all these statements. He says he was never known as Hirschman, and that the entire story of the defence is a tissue of lies. Witnesses, however, are coming forward hourly to give evidence against him. Nearly all of them come voluntarily, and say that their interest in the case is prompted by the fact that they knew Lichtenstein in Russia as Seide Hirschman, knew his parents and of his marriage, and cannot understand his present position. One of his brothers is now in the city, and he would get me a job at \$12 a week. I told him I could not do any such thing, as the woman was my cousin and I must see justice done here.

Then he acknowledged to me that my cousin was his wife, but said he could not live with her, as she made him so much

trouble in Russia. I asked him to do something for her, but he refused."

In cross-examination, Schoenberg said he was present at the wedding of Miss Horowitz and Hirschman.

Abraham Schoenberg swore that he was a native of Kopyzenko, and that the clothes which Hirschman wore when he was married to Gittel Horowitz. He recognized the Rev. Mr. Lichtenstein as Seide Hirschman.

MRS. GITTEL HIRSHMAN. Then came the chief witness of the day, Mrs. Gittel Hirschman. Though less than forty years old, she looks nearly sixty, her face being deeply lined and showing the laborious life she has led of late years.

She entered the room there was a pathetic scene. Mrs. Hirschman, after one glance at the man she claims as her husband, walked past him to the witness chair. As she did so Mrs. Lichtenstein, the complainant's latest wife, raised her hands and said:

"That old woman claims my husband as her husband. He would never marry any one that looked like that."

Mrs. Hirschman was sworn and at once identified Lichtenstein as her husband, who she deserted in Russia nearly fifteen years ago, taking with him all her property and leaving her helpless with a three-month-old child. She lived with her husband, she said, lived with him for one year and two weeks, and shortly after the birth of her child deserted him. She lived as best she could in Russia, searching for her husband all the time. Six years ago she came to America, and has been searching for him here. She had learned where her husband was through Mrs. Kopet, her husband's sister. Lichtenstein had come to Philadelphia two weeks ago, and she met him in Mrs. Kopet's house in the presence of Mrs. Avner. As soon as her husband saw her he ran away. She had asked Avner and Fals to help her, and when they asked Lichtenstein for money he had them arrested for blackmail.

Witnesses were examined to show the identity of Lichtenstein with Hirschman. Morris Hender, of No. 35 Stanton street, was born in the same town as Lichtenstein, and recognized him as Hirschman. David Udelman, of No. 173 Ludlow street, knew Hirschman as a child and identified Lichtenstein as the man.

Jacob Schlapkman, of No. 89 Attorney street, lived with Lichtenstein and his brother, who is known as Hirschman, in this city for more than a year.

"I asked him," said Schlapkman, "and he changed it when he did his religion."

The last witness called was Isaac Fals, who said he was a street paver in Kammarsburg, Poland. He had known the Hirschman family for forty years and recognized Lichtenstein as Hirschman.

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SWEATERS TO BE BOSSES.

Plan of Garment Makers to Have a Co-operative Factory of Their Own.

A Group of Rich Men Have Promised to Put Up from \$5,000 to \$150,000 for First Expenses.

WORK FOR LOCKED-OUT TAILORS.

The Situation Otherwise Not Changed, Though Driessen Said That the Largest Clothing Concern in the City Purposes to Shut Down.

The Executive Council of the United Garment Workers will hold a special meeting on Saturday, at No. 23 Lafayette place, to discuss a project which, if carried out, will revolutionize the entire clothing trade. The project has been under consideration for a week or two, but it was only yesterday that the new plan was disclosed.

The plan is, in brief, for the United Garment Workers to become the principal shareholders and the managers of a co-operative factory to be started about thirty miles from New York. The factory building is now in the hands of a syndicate of wealthy gentlemen who are willing to advance from \$5,000 up to \$150,000 as shareholders, and to make an agreement by which the United Garment Workers will be practically the employing manufacturers.

The design is, first, to give employment to the unemployed members of the Brotherhood of Tailors, and, second, to inaugurate a new system by which the trades unions will be actual sharers in the profits. President Charles F. Reheiser of the United Garment Workers, in talking of the project yesterday, said:

"The syndicate is made up of wealthy men, who are in business in New York."

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TAXPAYERS' SAD NEW YEAR.

Gotham's Expenses for 1896 to Be Six Million and a Half More Than Last Year.

Some Public Officials Think the Rate Will Jump to 2.06, and Others Say Even Higher.

IT WAS 1.91 IN THE YEAR JUST ENDED.

A Large Portion of the Increase is Mandatory and Goes to the Public Schools and the Street Cleaning Department.

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment met yesterday and passed the budget for the present year. All the members of the Board were present with the exception of Comptroller Fitch, who had gone to Washington, leaving his deputy to act in his stead. Mr. Fitch has all along declared himself opposed to the increase in the appropriations, but failed to be present to fight the passage of the entire budget. Deputy Storrs voted to pass the budget.

The total appropriation is the largest amount that has ever been appropriated for the expenses of the city government. It also shows the largest increase of any budget since 1872. The budget is even larger than the provisional one passed in November, and amounts to \$46,460,571.31. Of this amount \$2,500,000 comes from the general fund, leaving \$43,960,571.31 to be raised by taxation. The increase of the budget of 1895 is \$6,519,611.27. The details of the appropriation are as follows:

Am't last year's budget for 1895, \$43,960,571.31. Increase, \$6,519,611.27. Total, \$50,480,182.58.

Public Works Department, \$3,135,480.00. Public Health Department, \$1,198,935.00. Public Safety Department, \$620,470.00. Public Education Department, \$2,407,521.00. Public Charities, \$475,999.23. Public Buildings, \$69,680.00. Public Parks, \$5,824,525.00. Public Libraries, \$1,475,825.00. Public Charitable Institutions, \$1,475,825.00. Public Miscellaneous, \$20,712.31. Total, \$50,480,182.58.

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TOURISTS AFRAID TO GO.

An American Expedition to Palestine Given Up Because of the Armenian Disorders.

Troubled conditions in Turkey and Turkish dependencies have reduced tourist travel to Asia and Palestine. A party of New Yorkers that had engaged to make a cruise of the Mediterranean, the Orient and the Holy Land, backed out altogether. This cruise was organized by Frank C. Clark, who took the Knights Templar on pilgrimage to Europe some years ago, one of the places visited being Jerusalem, where Clark was Vice-Consul of the United States for several years.

The expedition was to have started on the 20th inst. For this purpose the Friends of the Red Star Line had been chartered for sixty days. When war with Great Britain became a possibility, those who had hesitated on account of the Armenian troubles, decided to remain at home rather than run personal risks or face the embarrasments of foreign complications. Clark had begun to cancel the engagements of berths.